Universal Salt Iodisation and universal household consumption of adequately iodised salt, as a part of the control of Iodine Deficiency Disorders Programme.

(b) A District level Media Meeting was organised on April 12, 2007 at Agra by the Academy of Management Studies, Lucknow. UNICEF, however, did not organise the meeting.

(c) Yes, Sir. Post Graduate Department of Medicine of S.N. Medical College, Agra has conducted research on the cause of goitre. The study shows that the Predominant cause of goiter at Agra is Hashimoto's disease which is an autoimmune thyroiditis rather than due to iodine deficiency. Studies on the iodine intake of the patients presenting with goitre have usually shown presence of sufficient amount of iodine in both salt as well as in other items of the diet.

Health care facilities for BPL population

†1441. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are formulating any plan to increase the health care facilities for people living below poverty line living in villages in the country;

(b) if so, the details of such plan proposed, if any, by Government for the year 2007-08 and 2008-09; and

(c) the number of youth living below poverty line who would get health care benefit through such proposed schemes in the States of Haryana during the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Government has launched National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) to expand health care facilities in rural areas with special attention to the underserved and underprivileged communities. NRHM was launched on 12.4.05 and has been operationalized throughout the country with special focus on 18 States, namely Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Orissa and Rajasthan, eight North-East States, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir. NRHM seeks to provide accessible, affordable, accountable, effective and reliable primary health care facilities, especially, to the poor and vulnerable sections of the population. It also aims at bridging the gap in Rural Health care services through creation of a cadre of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) and improved hospital care, decentralization of programme to district level to improve intra and inter-sectoral convergence and effective utilization of resources. NRHM further aims to provide overarching umbrella to existing programmes of Health and Family Welfare including RCH-II, Malaria, Blindness, Iodine deficiency, Filaria, Kala Azar, T.B., Leprosy and Integrated Disease Surveillance.

All the youth living below poverty line in the State of Haryana are eligible for getting health care benefit under NRHM.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.